



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

June 10, 2024

NSLP Funding Opportunities



24/25 SY Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Information

Please review the [informational letter](#) for the 2024-2025 SY. This letter and instructions to completing the FFVP Application Packet are also located on the DESE, Food and Nutrition Services [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable webpage](#).

The 24/25 SY Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program **application deadline is 4:30 PM., Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, and must be completed via the [Web Application System](#).

Elementary schools with 50% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals as of October 2023 or CEP claiming percentage is above 50% can fill out the *USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) Application* to competitively apply to participate for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

Please contact DESE, Food and Nutrition Services at 573-751-8673 or 573-751-4402 or if you have any questions.

FY 2024 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Information

- [Equipment Grant Ineligible List](#)
- [Equipment Grant Letter](#)
- [Equipment Grant Application](#)

Equipment Grant **Application deadline is 4:30 PM, Friday, July 12, 2024.**

Missouri's FY24 State Funding Allocation is \$191,792. We will use the Competitive Application Process this year once all eligible applications have been received. (*Applications will NOT be awarded based off of Free and Reduced Percentage.*)

All LEAs may apply unless a building is on the [Ineligible list](#) and has received prior funding. Review the [Equipment Grant Letter](#) for Selection Criteria Factors and other important information to help you complete the application. **Grant application** must be completed in its entirety. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. All applications must be signed and submitted by the due date. **There will be no exceptions.**

Congratulations to two Missouri School Food Authorities (SFAs) that recently received a Healthy Meal Incentives (HMI) Recognition Award and/or were small and rural HMI grantees.

- **Belton School District 124** received a recognition award for being a *Small or Rural School Food Authority Breakfast Trailblazer*
- **Northeast Vernon County School District R1** was awarded the *Innovation in Nutrition Education Award*

More details about all awardees will be available soon at AFHK's [Recognition Awardees webpage](#).

Missouri SuN Bucks (Summer EBT)

A flyer for Missouri SuN Bucks (Summer EBT) with an orange border. On the right is a photo of a young girl with a flower in her hair eating a slice of watermelon. The text on the left reads: "Summer Food Assistance", "Missouri is currently waiting on federal approval for a new program named 'Missouri SuN Bucks' designed to help families buy food for their school-aged children this summer. Eligible families would receive a one-time \$120 benefit per qualifying child on an EBT card to buy food from authorized locations.", "What can I do now?", "To get ready for Missouri SuN Bucks you can:", and a bulleted list: "• If your family gets SNAP or TA, update your address online at [mydss.mo.gov](\"http://mydss.mo.gov\") by selecting 'Report a Change'", and "• Subscribe to get important email alerts about the program!". A blue arrow points from the text to a QR code on the right labeled "SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE". At the bottom left are the "dss" and "SUN BUCKS" logos. At the bottom right is the URL "tinyurl.com/MOSuNBucks".

Helping Families Access Food During the Summer

Missouri is currently awaiting approval on a new program called 'Missouri SuN Bucks,' aimed at helping families buy groceries for their school-aged children during the summer.

At this time, Missouri SuN Bucks is pending approval. However, parents should start preparing for when the program launches. **The Missouri Department of Social Services is grateful to your school in partnering with us by including the above image in your emails or newsletters to parents.** This information gives a high-level overview of the program and encourages parents to subscribe for email alerts and to update their address if they have SNAP or Temporary Assistance.

Schools are a trusted place where families seek information about resources. Your support and guidance to families about Missouri SuN Bucks will help many children receive the food they need this summer. **[View the complete Missouri SuN Bucks Letter to Schools here.](#)**

Important School Nutrition Requirements and Resources

NOW AVAILABLE! Free and Reduced Price Application and Direct Certification Information and Procedures 2024-25 Handbook

The Free and Reduced Price Application and Direct Certification Information and Procedures 2024-25 is now available on the **DESE Food and Nutrition Services** website under **Free and Reduced Price Information** and **Handbooks**. Please refer to the **Frequently asked Questions** document pertaining to the Free and Reduced Application process. If you have any questions please call Food and Nutrition Services at 573-751-8673.

Updates to Nutrition Standards were announced by USDA on April 24, 2024

The New School Meal Standards will be gradually implemented to include less sugar and flexibility with menu planning. Watch this short overview **video** of the updates to the School Nutrition Standards.

The new school meal standards are outlined in the final rule titled, **Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans**.

While this new rule is effective July 1, 2024, USDA is gradually phasing in required changes over time. School Food Service Operators are not required to make any changes to their menus as a result of this rule until school year 2025-2026 at the earliest. Please carefully review the **implementation dates** for School Meal Programs.

This **Comparison Chart** provides a brief overview of proposed and final provisions included in the new school meal standards. Carefully review the full list of **new requirements**. The following meal pattern components and dietary specifications will be impacted:

- **Added Sugars**
- **Flavored Milk**
- **Whole Grains**
- **Sodium**
- **Meats/Meat Alternates at Breakfast**
- **Substituting Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast**
- **Substituting Vegetables for Grains**
- **Traditional Indigenous Foods**
- **Afterschool Snacks**
- **Beans, Peas, and Lentils at Lunch**
- **Nuts and Seeds**
- **Competitive Foods**
- **Fluid Milk Substitutes**

Flavored milk can remain on school lunch menus

The USDA will allow flavored milk like chocolate milk to remain part of the school lunch menu as long as it meets the new reduced sugar regulations, which take effect in fall 2025. Originally, the USDA had opposed flavored milk, but the department agreed to allow the beverage after securing assurances from milk manufacturers that the flavored milk offered would meet the new sugar limitations.

National CACFP Sponsors Association Webpage

Visit **CACFP.org** for tools and resources on creditable foods, recipes, menus, education and more!

Update to MyPlate

Did you know that MyPlate replaced the Food Guide Pyramid in 2011? MyPlate can be customized to fit your dietary needs, preferences, cultural traditions, and budget — so you can enjoy your favorite recipes *and* eat the healthy foods you love. Want to learn more about MyPlate and how it can help you enjoy healthier eating? Watch this [short video](#) or head over to our new MyPlate [campaign hub](#). Enjoy healthier eating. Update to MyPlate.



Let's Talk - Upcoming Webinar



Join us for an upcoming Let's Talk!

**Wednesday, June 12th
1:30-3:30 pm CST**

An email will be sent out the morning prior to each LEAs Authorized Representative and Food Service Director on file. The email will include the link required to access the webinar.

As always, the webinar will be recorded and posted at a later date for those that are not able to attend the live release. We look forward to hosting these trainings for all of you.

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool

The **Paid Lunch Equity tool and guidance** for the 2024-25 School Year is now available on our website.

For SY 2024-25, School Food Authorities (SFAs) with a positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2023, are exempt from PLE pricing requirements found at **7 CFR 210.14(e)**. **If the SFA had a positive or zero balance in the non-profit school food service account as of June 30, 2023, you must use [this link](#) to elect to use the PLE exemption.**

While not required, exempt SFAs may still use the PLE tool to complete the steps necessary to determine their target SY 2024-25 paid lunch price, consistent with program regulations at **7 CFR 210.14(e)**, and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly.

SFAs that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2023, must follow PLE requirements according to **7 CFR 210.14(e)** when establishing

their paid lunch prices for SY 2024-25. SFAs may use the SY 2024-25 PLE tool to determine their required paid lunch prices.

In the PLE tool, SFAs may use the prices they last charged students as the basis for their SY 2024-25 paid lunch price calculation, even if those prices were charged during a year the SFA was not required to comply with PLE requirements. For example, SFAs that were exempt based on the FY 2023 Appropriations Act may use prices charged during SY 2023-24 to determine their PLE requirement for SY 2024-25.

If an SFA did not charge for meals during SY 2023-24, such as an SFA that operated the Community Eligibility Provision, Provisions 2 or 3, or a non-pricing option and is returning to standard counting and claiming in SY 2024-25, it may use the most recent paid lunch price data as the basis for its SY 2024-25 paid lunch calculation. If an SFA is unable to find documentation of the last paid meal price charged to students, then it must follow FNS guidance for new schools found in [***Guidance on Paid Lunch Equity and Revenue from Nonprogram Foods | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)***](#).

Consistent with **7 CFR 210.14(e)(4)(i)**, SFAs are not required to raise their paid lunch price by more than 10 cents for SY 2024-25 from the last year they charged for paid lunches. SFAs can still choose to raise the price by more than 10 cents.

Non-Congregate Meals – Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

During the operation of COVID waivers, offering Seamless Summer meals via non-congregate models was permitted. This includes curbside, delivery, multi day, and bulk meals. However, in summer 2024 there are **no waivers** in effect. Therefore, **ALL** meals served via SSO must be consumed onsite. This includes meals that are served to the community at large.

If you are operating SSO, it is required that meals be served to children of the community age 18 and under. You may not limit meals to be served only to students enrolled in the district, or in a summer school program. Again, all meals served must be consumed on site. Meals cannot be taken offsite to be consumed.

If you are operating NSLP in the summer months, these meals would be served only to children enrolled in summer school and would be claimed according to the eligibility of the individual student. This is not the same as SSO.

Operation of non-congregate meals is an option only with prior approval. For more information on non-congregate meals offered via SSO, please view the webinar – [***Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\) and Rural Non-congregate***](#). Once you have viewed the webinar and decide that you would like to proceed with applying for a non-congregate feeding model or have additional questions, please reach out to Samantha Taggart – [**Samantha.Taggart@dese.mo.gov**](mailto:Samantha.Taggart@dese.mo.gov) and provide the following information:

- Agreement Number
- Primary Contact – for questions regarding the request to implement
- Site name(s)
- Site address(s)
- Indication of operation of summer school – year or no
- Brief explanation of why a congregate feeding model cannot be operated

- Indication of method in which non-congregate meals will be offered

Reminders and Important Information

Summer Workshops 2024

Summer Workshops 2024 will be held in **Springfield, MO - July 30 – August 1.**

(Please note the date change - we originally published the dates as July 31 - August 2)

- **July 30** – NEW Food Service Directors – Directors with **less** than 3 years' experience as a school food service director are invited to attend this day.
- **July 31** – ALL Food Service Directors - Directors that have **more** than 3 years' experience as a school food service director are invited to attend this day.
- **August 1** – Cooks and Kitchen Staff - Hands on skills training that incorporates knife skills, recipe basics and cooking with local and USDA Foods.

Registration COMING SOON!

This is the only location for summer workshops. We will record all training sessions offered and make the recordings available.

REMINDER: Local Wellness Policy and Triennial Assessment Guidance

LWP Guidance and resources are available on the DESE FNS **Wellness webpage** to assist LEAs with Local Wellness Policy and Triennial Assessment compliance, including ***Local Wellness Policy Checklist and Triennial Assessment Guide*** - a checklist of LWP minimum requirements and step-by-step guide to completing the triennial assessment and ***Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Summary*** - a triennial assessment reporting tool for documentation of results, progress, and goals.

REMINDER: Residential Child Care Institute (RCCI) Training Resources

The Missouri RCCI Manual and the RCCI Training PowerPoint presentation are available on the DESE FNS website under Guidance and Resources, **RCCI Resources**.

CEP Reminder

LEAs interested in electing Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for some or all schools must prepare data on the number of identified students eligible for free meals based on Direct Certification (including Homeless, Foster, and Extended Eligible) and enrollment data as of April 1 to determine eligibility and participate in CEP.

The **Final Rule** published on September 26, 2023, which lowered the minimum identified student percentage required to elect CEP from 40% to 25%.

Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Final Contract Year Info

For those in the 5th and FINAL year of their contract with their FSMC, new bids must go out very soon so that they can get approved and advertised for the mandatory 45-60 days. The contracts must be approved and signed by DESE before July 1. LEA's must use the Request for Proposal (RFP) that we provide. The RFP and the advertisement must be sent in to DESE and approved to get the process started. Please contact **Kyle Heislen** at (573) 522-9849 to get the RFP or if you have any questions. This must be completed ASAP.

Supply Chain Assistance Funding for Schools

Round 4 funds have been processed for LEAs that originally completed the Round 2/3 attestation and for schools that contract with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) if the required questionnaire/attestation was submitted prior to the May 17th deadline. Reallocation of the remaining Round 4 funds will be processed this month.

Turnip the Beet 2024 Nomination Packet

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to share the availability of the **Turnip the Beet 2024 Nomination Packet**. The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. Please consider promoting the opportunity to apply for a Turnip the Beet award. More information can be found on the **Turnip the Beet webpage**.

Farm to School

The **Local Food for Schools (LFS)** grant is still open. The application is an easy 3 step process to apply.

1. Watch the **training video**
2. Then complete the **application survey**
3. Finally submit a **written plan** explaining how you plan to use the funds to purchase local foods for school meals



USDA Foods Update

Bonus Fresh Apples – 110151 Various Varieties, 37-40# case, 125 servings

Don't miss taking advantage of these FREE cases of apples that will be available for September 2024 delivery! Refrigerate them and be ready for **Apple Crunch October!** No request is too big or too small for us to fill. Reach out today and request apples for your entire district at donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov.

Net Off Invoice Pounds

Please use your remaining lbs to place your final NOI orders this month. All pounds left unused on **June 30th** will be swept into the State bank.

DOD Updates

Summer schools that are operating NSLP or SSO can still utilize their DoD funds! Funds that are left unused by **June 30th** will be swept into the State Account.

To ensure a smooth transition back to school this fall, please make sure that your district's contact information is up to date in FFAVORS. If any changes need to be made, please send those to donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov.

Donated Foods Summer Workshop Sessions – Our USDA Foods Team is currently planning our Summer Workshops, and we want to make sure that the sessions we offer are both relevant and interesting for our attendees. *If there are specific topics that you would like to receive training on, please let us know!* We will be sending out more information soon!

SY23-24 Value Letter

Each year our office publishes a value letter that tells districts the value of the USDA Foods they received during the previous school year. We anticipate that this letter will be published mid-July, and authorized representatives will receive an email once it has been posted to our website.

Past Newsletters

Missed a past newsletter or need to access them again? You can find them all on our [Food and Nutrition Services Newsletter page!](#)



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